

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06828 01 OF 02 281054Z

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-08 USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00

FEA-01 ACDA-07 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01

H-01 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /156 W

-----281134Z 026680 /21

R 280930Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4235

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 6828

FODAG

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, EFIS

SUBJECT: ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES: DISCUSSION AT ELEVENTH SESSION OF FAO COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES

SUMMARY: ITEM ON LIVING RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

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PAGE 02 ROME 06828 01 OF 02 281054Z

WAS SUBJECT OF DAY-LONG DISCUSSION AT ELEVENTH SESSION OF FAO COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES (COFI). DEBATE CENTERED ON DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT WHICH BRIEFLY REVIEWED INFORMATION ON RESOURCES OF SOUTHERN OCEAN: DESCRIBED FAO ACTIVITIES WITH REGARD TO AREA, INCLUDING ONGOING PREPARATORY PHASE OF POSSIBLE FAO/UNDP PROGRAM, AND OUTLINED PROPOSED ELEMENTS OF SUCH PROGRAM. SECRETARIAT

PROPOSED THAT COFI CREATE SUBCOMMITTEE TO OVERSEE ACTIVITIES RELATED TO FAO/UNDP PROGRAM. DEBATE ON SUBJECT EVOLVED INTO GENERAL DISCUSSION OF FAO ROLE ON SOUTHERN OCEAN. IDEA OF SUBCOMMITTEE DREW LITTLE SUPPORT. AT SAME TIME THERE WAS GENERAL AFFIRMATION THAT FAO DOES NOT HAVE IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN SOUTHERN OCEAN, AND WIDESPREAD VIEW THAT COFI SHOULD KEEP ITEM UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW.

END SUMMARY

1. AGENDA ITEM ON LIVING RESOURCES OF SOUTHERN OCEAN WAS SUBJECT OF CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION BOTH FORMAL AND INFORMAL DURING ELEVENTH SESSION OF COFI. ORIGINAL IMPETUS DERIVED FROM EFFORTS OF SECRETARIAT (OF FAO DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES) TO STEER FAO ATTENTION TO SOUTHERN OCEAN THROUGH CREATION OF A COFI SUBCOMMITTEE, INTER ALIA TO OVERSEE PROPOSED FAO/UNDP SOUTHERN OCEAN PROGRAM. THIS IMPETUS WAS SUSTAINED BY FEELING AMONG LARGE NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS FAO SHOULD ASSERT ITS COMPETENCE TO DEAL WITH LIVING RESOURCE QUESTIONS IN THAT AREA.

2. THE NINE ANTARCTIC TREATY PARTIES PRESENT (ALL SAVE BELGIUM, SOUTH AFRICA AND USSR) HELD SERIES OF INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, CHAIRED BY JOHN HEAP OF UK DELEGATION, TO COORDINATE POSITIONS ON SOUTHERN OCEAN AGENDA ITEM. GROUP GENERALLY AGREED THAT (A) COFI SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOUTHERN OCEAN SHOULD NOT BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ROME 06828 01 OF 02 281054Z

CREATED: AND (B) FAO DOES HAVE LEGITIMATE ROLE TO PLAY IN SOUTHERN OCEAN. HOWEVER EFFORTS TO COORDINATE MORE SPECIFIC POSITION ON FAO'S ROLE--BOTH AS COUNTER TO SUBCOMMITTEE PROPOSAL AND TO PIN DOWN WHAT SORT OF ACTIVITIES FAO SHOULD BE UNDERTAKING--FAILED BECAUSE OF ARGENTINE INTRANSIGENCE.

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PAGE 01 ROME 06828 02 OF 02 281100Z
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FODAG

3. INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BY SEVERAL TREATY PARTIES
WITH SECRETARIAT LED LATTER TO BACK OFF IDEA OF CREATION
OF SUBCOMMITTEE AT THIS COFI SESSION. WHEN ITEM WAS
INTRODUCED FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION, SECRETARIAT
DESCRIBED IDEA OF SUBCOMMITTEE AS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL
POSSIBLE WAYS OF HANDLING FUTURE FAO ACTIVITIES.
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PAGE 02 ROME 06828 02 OF 02 281100Z

4. COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF SUBJECT EVOLVED INTO
LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF FAO'S ROLE WITH REGARD TO LIVING
RESOURCES OF SOUTHERN OCEAN. EXTENT OF DEBATE WAS
TRIGGERED IN PART BY STATEMENT BY ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVE,
FIRST TO TAKE FLOOR, WHO STRONGLY ARGUED THAT
FAO ROLE IN SOUTHERN OCEAN SHOULD BE MINIMAL AND THAT
ANTARCTIC TREATY EXCLUDES COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF
LIVING RESOURCES IN TREATY AREA. ARGENTINE INTERVENTION
INSPIRED NUMEROUS ASSERTIONS OF FAO COMPETENCE
IN AREA AND ELEVATED QUESTION OF FAO ROLE TO IMPORTANT
LEVEL IN COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS. GUINEA ATTACKED

ANTACTIC TREATY PARTIES AS SEEKING TO RESERVE TO THEMSELVES AREAS RICH IN LIVING RESOURCES AND ARGUED THAT ANTARCTIC TEATY NEEDS TO BE REVISED IN LIGHT OF SUCH CONCEPTS OF NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. GUINEA'S VIEWS RECEIVED LITTE ENDORSEMENT, THOUGH SEVERAL OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES ARGUED THAT RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN SHOULD BE DEVELOPED FOR BENEFIT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. IDEA OF SUBCOMMITTEE DREW VIRTUALLY NO SUPPORT IN DEBATE WITH REGARD TO ROLE OF FAO, THERE WAS GENERAL VIEW THAT FAO HAS IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITIES IN SOUTHERN OCEAN, THOUGH NO SPECIFIC AGREEMENT EMERGED ON CONCRETE ELABORATION OF THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES. AMONG GENERAL POINTS THAT WERE MADE WERE THAT FAO SHOULD CONTINUE AND EXPAND ITS EFFORTS TO COMPILE AND DISSEMINATE DATA ON SOUTHERN OCEAN RESOURCES: TO ASSESS THIS BIOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF SUCH RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: AND TO PROMOTE COOPERATION IN HOW-TO PROCESS AND DEVELOP PRODUCTS FROM THE UNCONVENTIONAL RESOURCES OF THE SOUTHERN OCEAN SUCH AS KRILL. A NUMBER OF TREATY PARTIES STRESSED THAT FAO ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT DUPLICATE THOSE BEING UNDERTAKEN BY OTHER COMPETENT BODIES SUCH AS SCAR, A POINT WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ROME 06828 02 OF 02 281100Z

WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTED. (ARGENTINE INTERPRETATION OF ANTACTIC TREATY AS PRECLUDING COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION WAS ALSO COUNTERED BY SEVERAL TREATY PARTIES.)

6. U.S. MADE LOW-KEY INTERVENTION IN DEBATE: (A) STRESSING THAT FAO HAS LEGITIMATE ROLE TO PLAY IN SOUTHERN OCEAN; (B) OPPOSING CREATION OF SUBCOMMITTEE AND ARGUING THAT EXISTING STRUCTURE OF FAO IS SUFFICIENT TO UNDERTAKE FAO ACTIVITIES; (C) NOTING IMPORTANT SCIENTIFIC WORK BEING DONE BY SCAR/SCOR GROUP OF SPECIALISTS ON ANTACTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES; AND (D) SUGGESTING THAT FAO HAS OTHER PRIORITIES HIGHER THAN SOUTHERN OCEAN. LAST POINT WAS PICKED UP BY A NUMBER OF OTHER DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING SEVERAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. CHILE, AFTER CONCURRING WITH ARGENTINE JURIDICAL POSITION IN MILD FASHION, SOUGHT WITH CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS TO PUSH VIEW THAT FAO SHOULD PLACE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN NEW PROGRAMS ON ASSISTING DEVELOPING COUNTIRES TO DEVELOP AND MANAGE FISHERIES WITHIN NEW 200-MILE ZONES (AND THUS BY IMPLICATION DOWNPLAY SOUTHERN OCEAN).

7. OUTCOME OF DEBATE, HOWEVER, INDICATED THAT QUESTION OF LIVING RESOURCES OF SOUTHERN OCEAN HAS BECOME

ISSUE OF SIGNIFICANCE TO FAO AND WILL REMAIN SUBJECT
FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION IN COFI AND PERHAPS ELSE-
WHERE IN FAO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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TAGS: EFIS, TBIO, FAO
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